

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 SAM-01 SAB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2588

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, SHUM

SUBJECT: THIRD CMTE-DECADE TO ELIMINATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

1. EFFORTS INTENSIFIED OCT. 3 TO COUNTER ARAB AMENDMENTS
TO DRAFT RES TO EFFECT THAT "ZIONISM" BE CONSIDERED A FORM OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TO BE ELIMINATED ALONG WITH APARTHEID.
AT ALL LEVELS USUN HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN URGING FIRST THE EC-9
AND THEN OTHER WEO'S TO TAKE POSITION THAT IF THESE AMENDMENTS
ARE ADOPTED, THEN THE INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS WILL VOTE
NO ON ENTIRE RESOLUTION. WHILE YESTERDAY ONLY US AMONG WEO'S
HAD THIS FIRM POSITION, BY START OF PM MEETING ENTIRE EC-9,
AUSTRIA, CANADA, AND EVEN NORDICS HAD ADOPTED THIS STANCE.
ITALY, SPEAKING FOR EC-9 STATED THIS POSITION CLEARLY TO
COMMITTEE.

2. US EXPRESSED ITS POSITION IN CLEAR TERMS, AND
STATEMENT WAS FOLLOWED WITH GREAT INTEREST BY CMTE. TEXT REPEATED
AT END OF TEL.

3. AFRICANS WERE IRRITATED AT ARAB PLOY OF ATTACHING REFERENCE
OF ZIONISM IN GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE RES ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.
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GHANA AND LIBERIA ASKED THAT VOTE BE POSTPONED TO MONDAY,

AND CMTE ACCDED TO THIS REQUEST. TANZANIA INFORMED USDEL THAT AT LEAST THIRTEEN AFRICAN DELS WOULD VOTE AGAINST ZIONIST AMENDMENTS, AND THAT AT A PLANNED AFRICAN GROUP MEETING A PLEA WOULD BE MADE TO ARABS TO DROP AMENDMENTS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE DO BELIEVE THAT AFRICANS WILL HAVE HARD TIME PERSUADING ARABS TO DROP AMENDMENTS BECAUSE ARAB PRESTIGE IS SERIOUSLY ENGAGED, WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOBBY INTENSIVELY. WHETHER OR NOT AMENDMENTS ARE VOTED THROUGH, ARABS HAVE CLEARLY ANNOYED MAJORITY OF AFRICANS. WHATEVER THE RESULT, WITH FIRM WEO POSITIONS ON THIS RESOLUTION AND REACTION OF AFRICANS, PROSPECT FOR FORESTALLING FUTURE SIMILAR ARAB MOVES HAS MARKEDLY IMPROVED.

5. TEXT FOLLOWS OF STATEMENT BY US REP GARMENT:

AT ECOSOC MY GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATED IN THE ELABORATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A ON THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. WE GAVE OUR SUPPORT TO THE ADOPTION OF THAT RESOLUTION AND LOOKED FORWARD TO BEING ABLE TO SUPPORT ITS ADOPTION BY THE THIRD COMMITTEE.

IN OUR HISTORY MY COUNTRY HAS KNOWN THE EVILS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, BUT MORE IMPORTANT MY GOVERNMENT WORKED WITH THE FIRMEST RESOLVE TO ELIMINATE THIS INJUSTICE. WE HAVE DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED CONCRETE AND ACTIVE PROGRAMS, AND WE HAVE ACHIEVED A SIGNIFICANT MEASURE OF PROGRESS IN REDUCING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN OUR SOCIETY.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS EXPERIENCE AND COMMITMENT PUT US IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO FURTHER THE WORK OF THE DECADE. TO THIS END WE HAVE SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE DECADE'S PROGRAM, AND WE WANT TO BE IN A POSITION TO CONTINUE TO DO SO.

THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOLUTION ON THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN A/C.3XL.2157 THAT WOULD DECLARE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY "CONSIDERS ZIONISM AS A FORM OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE." THE CONTENT OF THESE AMENDMENTS IS NOT ONLY UNJUST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT OMINOUS. IT IS OMINOUS BECAUSE IT TREATS THE WORD RACISM AS IF IT WERE NOT THE NAME OF A VERY REAL AND CONCRETE SET OF INJUSTICES, BUT MERELY AN EPITHET TO BE FLUNG AT WHOEVER HAPPENS TO BE ONE'S ADVERSARY. IT TURNS AN IDEA WITH A VIVID AND OBNOXIOUS MEANING INTO NOTHING MORE THAN AN IDEOLOGICAL TOOL; IT DEPRIVES US OF OUR ABILITY TO SEE REALITY TOGETHER AND TO DEAL WITH IT TOGETHER. AND THAT, FOR AN ORGANIZATION SO DEDICATED TO AND SO DEPENDENT UPON THE POSSIBILITIES OF REASON

AND PERSUASION, CAN BE NOTHING SHORT OF A TRAGEDY.

IT WOULD SEEM TO OUR DELEGATION THAT SUCH AMENDMENTS CAN ONLY SERVE TO EXACERBATE GROUP HOSTILITY AND INCREASE THE TENSIONS AND PASSIONS WHICH HAVE FOR SO LONG PREVENTED THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE IN SO MANY TROUBLED AREAS OF OUR GLOBE. THEY ARE, IN OUR VIEW, ENTIRELY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE DECADE FOR ACTION WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS PROCLAIMED.

HOWEVER ONE VIEWS THE PARTICULAR ISSUES IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, TO EQUATE ZIONISM WITH RACISM IS TO DISTORT COMPLETELY THE HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT, BORN OF THE CENTURIES OF OPPRESSION SUFFERED BY THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE WESTERN WORLD AND DESIGNED TO LIBERATE AN OPPRESSED PEOPLE BY RETURNING THEM TO THE LAND OF THEIR FATHERS.

IT IS NO SERVICE TO THE GREAT GOALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND AGENCIES TO IGNORE AND TO DISTORT HISTORY IN THIS FASHION. THE TRAGEDY IN THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY STEMS FROM OUR FAILURE, THUS FAR, TO FIND WAYS OF PROTECTING AND ACCOMMODATING THE RIGHTS OF ALL THE GROUPS IN THE AREA -- THOSE OF THE JEWS AND THOSE OF THE ARABS -- BOTH WITH A LONG, PROUD HISTORY IN THE REGION.

ACCORDINGLY, IF PUT TO A VOTE, MY DELEGATION WILL VOTE NO ON THE AMENDMENTS CONTAINED IN A/C.3/L.2157. THE ADOPTION OF ANY OF THOSE AMENDMENTS WILL CAUSE THE UNITED STATES TO CAST A NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE ENTIRE RESOLUTION.

I WOULD LIKE TO STATE, ON BEHALF OF MY DELEGATION, THAT THE TENDENCY TO JEOPARDIZE RESOLUTIONS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE WHICH ENJOY THE STRONG SUPPORT OF ALL DELEGATIONS BY SUBMITTING AMENDMENTS THAT CAN ONLY SOW DISCORD IN OUR COMMITTEE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DESTRUCTIVE OF OUR CAPACITY TO FURTHER THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ORGANIZATION AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS.

MR. CHAIRMAN, IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE ACCORD REACHED AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION WAS A HOPEFUL AUGURY FOR THE WORK OF THE THIRTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. A SIGNIFICANT START WAS MADE THERE ON THE FRAMEWORK AND FIRST STEPS TOWARD ACCOMMODATING COMPLEX ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES WITH COMMON HUMAN NEEDS. IN PART THAT SUCCESS RESULTED FROM THE RESPECT PAID TO LANGUAGE.

THE AGENDA OF THIS COMMITTEE IS FILLED WITH HISTORY AND PASSION. IT IS AN EASY INDULGENCE FOR INDIVIDUALS TO USE WORDS WHICH DISTORT AND DIVIDE, WHICH INFILTRATE WOUNDS AND DRAW ATTENTION.

IT IS OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO USE LANGUAGE ENLIGHTENED

BY HISTORY, TO USE IT PRECISELY, TO USE IT CAREFULLY, MINDFUL
OF OUR DIFFERENCES BUT DETERMINED TO OVERCOME, NOT ENLARGE,
THEM.
BENNETT

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